

**Remarks**

This supplemental reply is being submitted in order to bring the title into conformance with the title set forth in the Declaration, to ensure that terms used in the claims have proper antecedents, to reformulate certain language in claim 6, and to add sub-combination claims directed to the connecting element recited in the original claims, but without the limitations calling for the housing to be rigidly attached to the first part and the engaging element to be attached to the second part.

In addition, an Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted to make of record a German patent document that was filed prior to the present application but after the filing date of the German application from which this application claims priority. In addition, attached is a verified English translation of the priority application which is the same as the instant application.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By

  
Don W. Bulson, Reg. No. 28,192

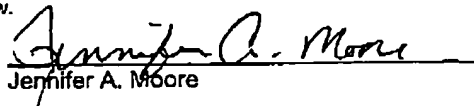
1621 Euclid Avenue  
Nineteenth Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 621-1113

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL**

I hereby certify that this paper, and any documents referred to as attached or enclosed, is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (fax no. 703-872-9306) on the date shown below.

Date:

2-5-04

  
Jennifer A. Moore

Z:\SEC152\152\DWB\BARD\PA0117\PO117US.R01A.wpd

BEST AVAILABLE COPY